

Haftarah for Bo

Jeremiah 46:13-28

This translation was taken from the JPS Tanakh

¹³ The word which the Lord spoke to the prophet Jeremiah about the coming of King Nebuchadrezzar of Babylon to attack the land of Egypt:

¹⁴ Declare in Egypt, proclaim in Migdol,
Proclaim in Noph and Tahpanhes!
Say: Take your posts and stand ready,
For the sword has devoured all around you!

¹⁵ Why are your stalwarts swept away?

They did not stand firm,
For the Lord thrust them down;

¹⁶ He made many stumble,

They fell over one another.

They said: "Up! let us return to our people,
To the land of our birth,
Because of the deadly sword."

¹⁷ There they called Pharaoh king of Egypt:
"Braggart who let the hour go by."

¹⁸ As I live — declares the King,

Whose name is Lord of Hosts —
As surely as Tabor is among the mountains
And Carmel is by the sea,
So shall this come to pass.

¹⁹ Equip yourself for exile,
Fair Egypt, you who dwell secure!
For Noph shall become a waste,
Desolate, without inhabitants.

²⁰ Egypt is a handsome heifer —
A gadfly from the north is coming, coming!

²¹ The mercenaries, too, in her midst

Are like stall-fed calves;

They too shall turn tail,

Flee as one, and make no stand.

Their day of disaster is upon them,

The hour of their doom.

²² She shall rustle away like a snake

As they come marching in force;

They shall come against her with axes,

Like hewers of wood.

²³ They shall cut down her forest

— declares the Lord —

Though it cannot be measured;

For they are more numerous than locusts,

And cannot be counted.

²⁴ Fair Egypt shall be shamed,

Handed over to the people of the north.

²⁵ The Lord of Hosts, the God of Israel, has said: I will inflict punishment on Amon of No and on Pharaoh — on Egypt, her gods, and her kings — on Pharaoh and all who rely on him. ²⁶ I will deliver them into the hands of those who seek to kill them, into the hands of King Nebuchadrezzar of Babylon and into the hands of his subjects. But afterward she shall be inhabited again as in former days, declares the Lord.

²⁷ But you,

Have no fear, My servant Jacob,

Be not dismayed, O Israel!

I will deliver you from far away,

Your folk from their land of captivity;

And Jacob again shall have calm

And quiet, with none to trouble him.

²⁸ But you, have no fear,

My servant Jacob

— declares the Lord —

For I am with you.

I will make an end of all the nations

Among which I have banished you,

But I will not make an end of you!

I will not leave you unpunished,

But I will chastise you in measure.